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in, draft a bill, introduce it next year, let's have a hearing on it, but I'm not ready to go this direction this morning without further input. With that, I'll give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I stand in support of the amendment. I think that...I visited with Senator Redfield last night. I think sometimes it takes someone outside of the box, so to speak, to look at the entire situation. I think it will possibly be beneficial for us to look at this plan of reducing the number of commissioners, and I understand it has been talked about as a body within the present commissioners about reducing the number. I think that there is the possibility of saving some costs, although we talk about those costs are not as large, but it certainly could save some costs. I think that we would have the representation. We would come closer to the population evenness, that equality that we've been looking at, by having the three commissioners from the rural areas and then the two. I disagree with Senator Schrock in the fact that it wouldn't represent hunters and fishers. Who's to say that that farmer or rancher or that businessperson from Lincoln or Omaha isn't a sportsman? I think if you would look at the present makeup of the commissioners now that you would find that it is made up of a variety of interests representing the sportsmen and the hunters throughout the state. I think that this might just be the option. As I said yesterday, my constituents are totally opposed to increasing the number of commissioners. I will not be supporting increasing that number to eight and we may be here for a long time in this discussion, but I'm looking at this as somewhat of a compromise. And we do this all the time. Everything...every amendment that has been brought forth before the Legislature has not had a hearing, I think we're all aware of that, and sometimes we have to do these things to come to somewhat of a compromise. With that, I hope that you'll support this amendment and I'll turn the time back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Jones, on the Erdman amendment to the Beutler amendment.